

**BOROUGH OF JENKINTOWN
700 SUMMIT AVENUE
JENKINTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA**

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE WORKSHOP MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2026, 7:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS:

Jay Conners	Council President
Christian Soltysiak	Council Vice President
Gordon Lewis	Councilor
Deborra Sines-Pancoe	Councilor
Steve Spindler	Councilor
Maxine Marlowe	Councilor
Joanne Bruno	Councilor
David Ballard	Councilor
Alexandria Khalil	Councilor
Joshua Curtin	Councilor

GUESTS:

George Locke	Borough Manager
Thomas Scott	Chief of Police
Ken Lynch	Borough Fire Chief
Mark Bickerton	Borough Traffic Engineer, Pennoni Associates
Allison Shertzer	Member, Planning Commission
Paul Harrison	Recording Secretary, Minutes Solutions (via teleconference)

ABSENT:

Anne MacHaffie	Councilor
Alex Bartlett	Councilor

1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, and adequate and proper notice of the meeting having been given, the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

3. PRESENTATION – PROPOSED ZONING MAP REVISION

On a motion made by Jay Conners, seconded by Deborra Sines-Pancoe, it was resolved to raise the proposed zoning map revision at the next Council meeting. Motion carried.

Allison Shertzer presented the proposed zoning map, which rezones several parcels of land from Town Center to C-1 and C-1 modified residential zoning in order to reflect their usage, which is primarily residential. This is intended as a preliminary step facilitating broader changes to zoning and zoning ordinances, particularly aimed at affording greater opportunities for residential development. Lots with existing commercial use will be grandfathered, but these lots will lose their grandfathered status if sold.

The Committee noted that the proposed zoning changes may favor the development of apartments over affordable single-family homes. Allison Shertzer stated that such homes are a priority, and that future changes in zoning ordinances may facilitate their construction, for example by relaxing size requirements. Under the current ordinances, the majority of Jenkintown's housing stock is already nonconforming. It was noted that affordability is not only a function of the way in which houses are constructed, but of land values, which are high in Jenkintown.

The Committee asked whether ParkMobile parking in the re-zoned parcels will be affected, noting that residents in the area objected to ParkMobile's introduction. Allison Shertzer noted that paid parking was introduced in response to observed parking behavior; many people in the business district were using the neighboring residential areas for free parking.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Jenkintown Fire Department

Kevin Lynch gave his report on the Jenkintown Fire Department.

4.2 Second Alarmers

No report was given.

4.3 Police Department

Thomas Scott reported 517 service calls in January, 2026, and noted exemplary performance by an Officer Culbreath, whose traffic stop prevented the theft of a vehicle and led to the identification of two suspects connected to an organized vehicle theft ring, which is believed to have stolen between 50 and 100 vehicles across five counties. Thomas Scott indicated that his annual report will be ready by the next Committee meeting.

4.4 Public Works Department

No report was given. It was noted that the storm reports are completed and have been submitted.

4.5 Engineer Report

ACTION – Thomas Scott will investigate reports that phone-based payment at ParkMobile kiosks does not function.

Mark Bickerton reported that traffic signal upgrades at Walnut Street and Runnymede Avenue are underway. Crosswalk buttons must still be pressed; contactless systems were rejected, as they have difficulty distinguishing pedestrians from other objects. Audible crossing systems are being tested at one site for broader implementation; these will be programmed to vary their volume over time to be slightly above ambient noise. Several choices of sound are available, and can be changed as desired after installation.

5. PUBLIC WORKS – NEW BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

5.1 HVAC Unit Serving Police Department

The HVAC unit serving the police department was replaced at a cost of \$23,000. The two other units serving Borough Hall will be assessed as to their condition, to prevent the need for emergency repairs in the future.

5.2 Roadway Anti-Icing Agent

Morton Salt will not be fulfilling their contract this year. An emergency distribution of road salt was secured with a different provider; in accordance with their contract, Morton Salt will reimburse the Borough for any increase in price above what they offered.

5.3 Automated Red Light Enforcement Grant Application

The project for which the grant was approved is to re-time and optimize the traffic lights along the York Road corridor. A subcontractor will be hired to perform preliminary data collection so that the timing model can be developed; data on near-miss traffic incidents will be incorporated in addition to regular traffic flow. Implementation is expected to begin in 2027. The grant additionally includes the upgrade of the three remaining traffic signals with in-pavement loop detectors to use radar detection, as well as "Don't Block the Box" signage and pavement markings at two locations.

5.4 Healy Street – Public Complaint

ACTION – George Locke will investigate additional snow removal options on Healy Street.

A resident on Healy Street complained that snow is not removed from their street. George Locke explained that the Borough's snow removal equipment cannot be used on Healy Street, as the street is narrow and is used for parking by its residents. The simplest option would be to move parked cars, but residents have objected to this. A smaller vehicle could be purchased, but this would be a large expense for the scope of the problem. In the meantime, workers have been salting the street by hand and performing some snow control with snowblowers.

6. PUBLIC WORKS – ONGOING BUSINESS

6.1 Parking Inventory

The parking inventory will be completed and made available to the Committee no later than February 20, 2026.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY – NEW BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

7.1 Police Department – Duty Firearms

On a motion made by Christian Soltysiak, seconded by Gordon Lewis, it was resolved to raise the proposed replacement of duty firearms for the police department at the next Council meeting. Motion carried.

The police department's existing duty firearms are approaching the end of their life expectancy, which is eight to 10 years. These will be traded in, reducing the cost of the replacement by approximately 30%; officers will also have the option to purchase their own firearms for their trade-in value. It was noted that the replacement affords an opportunity to take advantage of technological advances, particularly in weapon sights and holster safety.

7.2 Review of Borough Code

The first section of Chapter 85 of the Borough Code declares an emergency coordinating board; this is antiquated, and does not reflect current practices. In particular, some situations may require immediate and unilateral emergency declarations by the mayor or the police chief, which are not permitted under the existing code. Thomas Scott recommended the removal of

this section; he noted that full communication would still be maintained with the mayor and Council, if only after emergency declarations, and that written documents would still be produced justifying emergency declarations, as these are required to secure funding for emergency relief efforts from the state and federal governments. The Committee suggested that new language be added to the Code stipulating that emergency declarations must involve the mayor and Council in circumstances where this is possible without further endangering the public.

8. ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE – NEW BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

8.1 Borough Monthly Reporting

The monthly report for January was delayed, and will be available before the next Council meeting.

8.2 Destruction of Records

On a motion made by David Ballard, seconded by Joanne Bruno, it was resolved to raise the proposed destruction of records at the next Council meeting. Motion carried.

8.3 Multi-Modal Transportation Grant Application

On a motion made by David Ballard, seconded by Joanne Bruno, it was resolved to raise the issuance of a letter in support of the grant application by Abington Township at the next Council meeting. Motion carried.

8.4 Proposed Plastic Bag Ordinance

On a motion made by David Ballard, seconded by Deborra Sines-Pancoe, it was resolved to raise the proposed plastic bag ordinance at the next Council meeting. Motion carried.

8.5 Borough Passport Services

George Locke is qualified to manage passport applications, but state department rules do not permit the Borough's passport acceptance facility to operate anywhere other than Borough Hall. Senator John Fetterman is attempting to clarify with the state department why this restriction exists. The Borough Hall cannot currently accommodate an additional office for the purpose of passport acceptance.

9. ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE – ONGOING BUSINESS

9.1 ALTEK – Conversion of Paper Documents to Electronic Files

Zoning documents have been uploaded to the electronic system, and a training session was held for the two administrators. It was noted that Council must decide whether to retain physical copies of the digitized documents. A collection of lab books dating to the 1800s was not digitized, but was donated to the Historical Society.

9.2 Collection of Delinquent Accounts

Data collection for delinquent accounts dating back as far as 2014 is nearly completed.

9.3 LSA Grant – Rehabilitation of Borough Hall

It was noted that Borough Hall requires significant electrical and plumbing work, which has been prioritized above any aesthetic renovations.

10. BUILDING ZONING AND REVITALIZATION – NEW BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

10.1 Planning Commission Update

The Planning Commission’s next priority is a review of the billboard ordinance; this has some urgency, in order to avoid possible litigation. The Commission provided a memo on the SPS redesign and walking path, and another on the Town Center zoning map.

10.2 Current Development Updates

It was noted that the building at 510 West Avenue is large, and its need for parking must be considered in the subdivision application.

11. NEW BUSINESS

11.1 David M. Jordan

It was reported that former Jenkintown resident David M. Jordan, a prolific author, historian and attorney, died recently. His family requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made instead to the Jenkintown Library.

12. NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Committee meeting was not scheduled.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was closed at 9:11 p.m.

DISCLAIMER

The above minutes should be used as a summary of the motions passed and issues discussed at the meeting. This document shall not be considered a verbatim copy of every word spoken at the meeting.

Director

Director

Date

Date